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Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Testimony HB6519 - Conn Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics  
March 15, 2013

Thank you members of the Committee for giving us this opportunity to submit testimony.

On behalf of the Connecticut Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, we are submitting this testimonial on behalf of our 1000+ members who are registered dietitians (RDs) and dietetic technicians, registered (DTRs).

As RDs and DTRs, we work with the public to provide medical nutrition therapy and nutrition education for the prevention of and as part of the treatment for certain medical conditions. We teach our patients, our clients, and/or our consumers how to read food labels. Food labels are an important tool to assist them in making educated decisions about what foods they will consume. If food labels also included information regarding GMOs, as they are listed on food labels in Europe and most of the world, we would be better able to inform our consumers about these genetically modified organisms, which may contain potential allergens or could have other health consequences they may wish to avoid.

Sadly, the ability to test GMOs independently is severely limited. According to Scientific American, several large Agritech companies explicitly forbid the use of their seeds in independent research. Instead, the companies pick the favorable studies to highlight, and do not promote those which are unfavorable to their work to "ever see the light of a peer-reviewed journal". When scientists have been able to study these crops, the results have been disturbing. A study published last November in the Journal of Food and Chemical Toxicology found that GMO maize provoked chronic hormone and sex dependent pathologies in rats. Female rat mortality was 2 to 3 times higher mostly due to large mammary tumors and disabled pituitary gland function, and males had liver congestion, necrosis, severe kidney nephropathies and large palpable tumors.

50 countries around the world require GMO labeling, so why must Americans remain in the dark? We urge passage of HB 6519, An Act Concerning The Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food, to rectify this lack of transparency and to give Connecticut residents the information they need and deserve **to make an informed decision**. I have included some references the Committee may wish to explore.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0278691512005637>

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=do-seed-companies-control-gm-crop-research>

Sincerely,

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President, Connecticut Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics